REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Claims 1-11 and 13-17 are Patentable Over the Cited Art

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 21-36 as anticipated by Weber (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,901). Applicants traverse for the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 recites system in communication with a network comprising one or more network components including one or more storage devices, one or more hosts, and at least one switching fabric. Claim 1 requires: a manager in communication with the network components and an interface process in communication with the manager and the network components, wherein the interface process performs: obtaining information on the network components from the manager; maintaining a rules file identifying application process residing on the network components and communication interfaces supported by the application process; displaying information representing the network components; receiving selection of one displayed network component; accessing the rules file to determine at least one application process associated with the selected network component; displaying information on the at least one determined application process associated with the selected network component wherein at least one of the determined application processes reside on the selected network component; receiving selection of one of the displayed application processes; accessing the rules file to determine information on the selected application process and the communication interface to use to launch the selected application process on the selected network component; launching the selected application process on the selected network component using the determined information and the determined communication interface from the rules file

Applicants amended claim 1 to clarify the preamble and replace the hosts, storage devices and switching fabric with network components. This amendment is disclosed on at least pgs. 41-42 of the Specification. Claim 1 is amended to add the requirement of maintaining a rules file identifying application process residing on the network components and interfaces supported by the application process. This added requirement is disclosed on at least pg. 175, lines 8-14 and pg. 176, lines 11-24, pg. 177, lines 1-10 of the Specification. Claim 1 is further amended to require receiving selection of one displayed network component and accessing the rules file to determine at least one application process associated with the selected network component. This added requirement is disclosed on at least pg. 176, lines 11-24 of the Specification.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that at least one of the determined application processes reside on the selected network component. This added requirement is disclosed on at least pg. 176, lines 11-24. Claim 1 is yet further amended to recite accessing the rules file to determine information on the selected application process and the communication interface to use to launch the selected application process on the selected network component. This added requirement is disclosed on at least pg. 41, line 18 to pg. 42, line 2; pg. 175, lines 8-14 and pg. 176, lines 11-24, pg. 177, lines 1-10 of the Specification. Claim 1 is further amended to require that the selected application process is launched on the selected network component using the determined information and the determined communication interface from the rules file. This added requirement is disclosed on at least pg. 41, line 18 to pg. 42, line 2 and pg. 177, lines 1-10.

In the Response to Arguments in the Final Office Action, the Examiner cited col. 7, line 15 to col. 8, line 15 and col. 8, lines 16-46 of Weber with respect to the pre-amended version of the claims. (Final Office Action, pgs. 4-5). Applicants traverse with respect to the amended claims.

The cited cols. 7-8 discuss how a user can direct a management station to discover and display devices on the network. The management station uses information obtained during the locate process to match a particular device with the appropriate management application residing in a repository. The management station and retrieve and process a management application for a device. Each management interface application 214 is configured to communicate with and direct the controller and control software of the associated device, such as to monitor and communication management and configuration commands to a device. A new management interface application is added to the repository if the control software of the managed device is updated to a new version.

Although the cited cols. 7-8 discuss how management interface applications may be loaded in a management station and used to control located network devices, the Examiner has not cited any part of the cited cols. 7-8 of Weber that disclose the added claim requirements of maintaining a rules file identifying application process residing on the network components and communication interfaces supported by the application process. Further, the cited cols. 7-8 also nowhere disclose that the rules file is accessed in response to receiving selection of one displayed network component to determine application processes associated with the selected network component and that the rules file is also accessed to determine information on a selected

application process and communication interface to use to launch the selected application process on the selected network component. The cited cols. 7-8 discuss how information obtained during the locate process on devices is used to match a device with a management application residing in a repository. However, this does not disclose the claim requirement of accessing the rules file to determine and display information on application processes residing on a selected network component and then accessing the rules file to determine information to use to launch a selected application on the selected network component.

The cited col. 8, lines 16-46 of Weber mentions that the management interface application may reside on the I/O device itself and that the device may have an embedded web server to pass the management interface application program to the management station using a web server protocol, such as HTTP. Applicants submit that this cited section of col. 8 does not disclose a rules file identifying application processes residing on network components which is accessed to determine application processes for a selected network component and to determine information and the communication interface to use to launch the selected application on the network component.

The cited col. 8 mentions that the management application program that the management station may execute to manage the device may be retrieved from the device itself. However, in this embodiment, the cited Weber is still discussing how to access a management application to launch on the management station, not how to launch an application on the network component as claimed. In the cited Weber, when the accessed management application is transferred to the management station it is not launched on the network component when executed, but is instead transferred to the management station for execution there. Moreover, the cited col. 8 does not disclose the added claim requirements of a rules file identifying application processes residing on network components, where the rules file is accessed to determine application processes for a selected network component, residing on that component, and to determine information and the communication interface to use to launch a selected application residing on the network component.

Applicants further note that col. 14, lines 44-65 of Weber mentions a database storing a record for each device connected to the server including a field which indicates whether the device requires RPC to UTM transport services. Col. 16, line 51 to col. 17, line 50 of Weber discusses how upon discovering a list of devices, to start a management interface application, the

user preferably double clicks on a storage system and the device property information about the selected storage system is received. The device properties include the storage system's management interface version and the management interface application program version. The management interface application program is loaded on the management station and then may be used to change the configuration of one of the devices.

Applicants submit that the above discussed cols. 14, 16, and 17 do not disclose a rules file identifying application processes residing on network components, where the rules file is accessed to determine application processes for a selected network component, residing on that component, and to determine information and the communication interface to use to launch a selected application residing on the network component.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner further cited col. 13, lines 1-49 col. 7, lines 25-39; col. 16, lines 58-67 of Weber with respect to the pre-amended version of claim 1. (Final Office Action, pgs. 9-10). Applicants traverse with respect to the amended claims

The cited col. 13 discusses a discover-monitor application screen having a management domain window presenting a tree view of the management domain. Lower level nodes in the tree represent actually physical hardware devices such as servers, arrays, and other I/O devices. The higher level nodes in the tree represent the location of the hardware devices, such as state and city. A detailed information window presents detailed properties for each device. If a device is selected, the device's management interface application program is launched.
The cited col. 13 discusses a display of hardware devices in the network and their properties.
The cited col. 16 discusses starting a management interface application for a storage system in the network by the user clicking one of the storage systems. The device property information about the selected storage system is received. Nowhere do the cited cols. 13 and 16 anywhere disclose a rules file identifying application processes residing on network components which is accessed to determine application processes for a selected network component and to determine information and the communication interface to use to launch the selected application process on the selected component.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is patentable over the cited art because the cited Weber does not disclose all the claim requirements.

Claims 2 and 4-9 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from claim 1. Further, the below discussed dependent claims provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

Applicants amended claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 to replace specific components, such as the hosts, switch fabric and/or storage devices, with the term "network components".

Applicants amended independent claims 21, 24, and 31 to substantially include the amendments made to claim 1. Applicants submit that independent claims 21, 24, and 31 are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed with respect to amended claim 1.

Applicants amended dependent claims 22, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 34, 35, and 36 in a manner similar to the amendments made to claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9.

Claims 22, 23; 25-30, and 32-36 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from one of the independent claims 21, 24, and 31.

2. New Claims 38-40 are Patentable over the Cited Art

Added claim 38 depends from claim 1 and further requires that the information in the rules file for at least one network component is obtained from an operator administrator and the information in the rules file for at least one other network component is obtained via standardized queries of the at least one other network component.

The added requirements of these claims are disclosed on at least pg. 175, line 15 to pg. 176, line 2 of the Specification.

Added claim 39 depends from claim 1 and further requires that displaying information on the at least one determined application process comprises displaying information on a plurality of application processes residing on the selected network component to enable selection of one of the application processes on the selected network component to launch..

The added requirements of these claims are disclosed on at least pg. 176, lines 11-34 of the Specification.

Added claim 40 depends from claim 1 and further requires that the network components comprise hosts, storage devices, and at least one switching fabric, wherein the manager communicates with the hosts and storage devices via the at least one switching fabrics.

The added requirements of these claims are disclosed on at least pg. 41, lines 3-9 and pg. 174, lines 11-17 of the Specification.

Applicants submit that claims 38-40 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from claim 1, which is patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above, and because the additional requirements of these claims in combination with the base claims provide further grounds of patentability over the cited art.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 21-40 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants submit herewith the fee for the added claims and a three month extension of time. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0466.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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